

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report gives an overview of the issues considered at the 12 July 2016 meeting.

1. Fundamentals of Overview and Scrutiny

- 1.1 The Committee took part in a training session facilitated by Ann Reeder, an expert advisor and regional advocate for the south of England with the Centre for Public Scrutiny. The session provided an outline of Overview and Scrutiny, what it is, how it works and what can be achieved.

2. Financial Reports

- 2.1 The Committee noted two financial reports setting out the provisional outturn position for both revenue and capital for 2015/2016.
- 2.2 The Committee also noted the Treasury Management annual report for 2015/16 which covered the Council's activities in the borrowing and investment market.
- 2.3 The Committee questioned the Cabinet member responsible & invited Councillor Williams and the Council's finance team to provide a short course on finance terminology and reading accounts. It is strongly recommended that all members attend.

3. Committee Work Programme 2016-2017

- 3.1 The Committee identified topics of interest/concern that could be considered for inclusion in the work programme for 2016-17 during the training session.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed to set up two Task Groups to review the Council's Communications Strategy, and to review the Parks and open spaces bylaws and management of open spaces respectively.
- 3.3 The Committee also agreed to undertake, as a whole Committee, an assessment of Parking Amenities, both public & privately run in Ashford and Stanwell, and any changes required. The Committee also decided to evaluate Taxi Licensing, with particular regard to provision of taxi ranks, whether the economic needs of the borough are adequately served by the present regime and whether the present fees charged represent value for money.
- 3.4 The Committee invites suggestions for its future deliberations from all Members and local residents groups.

Councillor Colin Davis

Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 July 2016